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## Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

### Fifty-eighth session

Bonn, 5–15 June 2023

Agenda item 13

### Guidance on cooperative approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement and in decision 2/CMA.3

## Guidance on cooperative approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement and in decision 2/CMA.3

### Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), pursuant to paragraphs 4, 16(a), 17 and 22 of decision 6/CMA.4, considered the guidance on cooperative approaches referred to in Article<sup>1</sup> 6, paragraph 2, and in decision 2/CMA.3.
2. The SBSTA took note of:
  - (a) The submissions<sup>2</sup> from Parties;<sup>3</sup>
  - (b) The workshops held intersessionally:
    - (i) A hybrid workshop on potential challenges Parties participating in cooperative approaches may face in addressing different elements of the initial report<sup>4</sup> and to support the identification of related capacity-building needs, held on 24 April 2023;<sup>5</sup>
    - (ii) A hybrid workshop on the draft version of the agreed electronic format,<sup>6</sup> held from 25 to 26 April 2023;<sup>7</sup>
    - (iii) A virtual workshop,<sup>8</sup> as part of the capacity-building programme referred to in paragraph 12 of decision 2/CMA.3, with the broad participation of Parties, on the completion and submission of the initial report, held from 17 to 18 May 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> “Article” refers to an Article of the Paris Agreement.

<sup>2</sup> Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx> (in the search field, type “Article 6”).

<sup>3</sup> See decision 6/CMA.4, paras. 4, 15 and 19.

<sup>4</sup> Referred to in decision 2/CMA.3, annex, chap. IV.A.

<sup>5</sup> As per decision 6/CMA.4, para. 18.

<sup>6</sup> Referred to in decision 2/CMA.3, annex, chap. IV.B, and contained in decision 6/CMA.4, annex VII.

<sup>7</sup> As per decision 6/CMA.4, para. 3.

<sup>8</sup> As per decision 6/CMA.4, para. 23.

3. The SBSTA also took note of:
- (a) The technical paper,<sup>9</sup> prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the issues identified at the workshop referred to in paragraph 2(b)(i) above, on potential considerations in the preparation of the reporting on elements listed in the initial report;
  - (b) The informal report<sup>10</sup> on the workshop referred to in paragraph 2(b)(ii) above.
4. The SBSTA further took note of the informal note<sup>11</sup> prepared by the co-facilitators for this agenda item to capture the views expressed by Parties at this session on the matters referred to in paragraphs 4, 16(a), 17 and 22 of decision 6/CMA.4.
5. The SBSTA invited Parties and observer organizations to submit via the submission portal<sup>12</sup> before SBSTA 59 (November–December 2023) views on the matters referred to in paragraphs 16(a), 17 and 22 of decision 6/CMA.4, to be taken into account where timing permits in preparing the technical paper and the workshop referred to in paragraphs 6–7 below, for consideration at SBSTA 59.
6. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare, with a view to facilitating understanding of the relevant issues but without prejudging possible outcomes, and considering the relevant work undertaken in the first intersessional period of 2023 and relevant views expressed by Parties at this session, a technical paper<sup>13</sup> without formal status on the elements referred to in paragraph 6(a–d) below prior to the workshop referred to in paragraph 7 below and on the elements and processes referred to in paragraph 6(e) below prior to publishing the informal document referred to in paragraph 8 below. The technical paper is to include analysis of the following elements, including any linkages between them, related to the mandates contained in decision 6/CMA.4 and to be prepared on the basis of any corresponding provisions of the guidance on cooperative approaches and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), and using flowcharts and other visual representations:
- (a) The process of authorization pursuant to decision 2/CMA.3, annex, paragraphs 2, 18(g) and 21(c), notably the scope of changes to authorization of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes towards use(s), and the process for managing them and for authorization of entities and cooperative approaches with a view to ensuring transparency and consistency;
  - (b) The draft version of the agreed electronic format, including concepts and options for the structure of the agreed electronic format and proposals for common nomenclatures for Parties to test and support capacity-building, as well as options for the tables for submitting annual information as part of the regular information, as referred to in decision 2/CMA.3, annex, paragraph 23(j);
  - (c) The mandates in paragraph 17(g–j) of decision 6/CMA.4, taking into account any submissions from Parties on the technical specifications and estimated costs for the international registry<sup>14</sup> referred to in paragraph 33(c) of that decision;
  - (d) Analysis and sequencing of the steps in the Article 6, paragraph 2, reporting and review processes, including as referred to in paragraph 17(a) of decision 6/CMA.4;
  - (e) Elements and processes pertaining to inconsistencies identified in reviews and in data on internationally transferred mitigation outcomes in the Article 6 database as referred to in paragraphs 16(a)(iii) and 17(f) of decision 6/CMA.4.
7. The SBSTA also requested the secretariat to organize a hybrid workshop to be held in conjunction with the workshop being organized under the SBSTA agenda item entitled “Rules, modalities and procedures for the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement and referred to in decision 3/CMA.3” before SBSTA 59 to consider the technical paper on the elements referred to in paragraph 6(a–d) above.

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<sup>9</sup> FCCC/TP/2023/2.

<sup>10</sup> Available at [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Art\\_6.2\\_WS\\_informal\\_report\\_AEF.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Art_6.2_WS_informal_report_AEF.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/629815>.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

<sup>13</sup> The technical paper is to be prepared in two parts with separate timelines.

<sup>14</sup> Referred to in decision 6/CMA.4, annex I, chap. I.C.

8. To facilitate deliberations on further guidance on cooperative approaches, the SBSTA further requested its Chair to prepare an informal document, including textual proposals and a revised draft version of the agreed electronic format, informed by the relevant views expressed by Parties at this session, as captured in the informal note referred to in paragraph 4 above, and the intersessional work referred to in paragraphs 6–7 above, for consideration at SBSTA 59 with a view to it recommending a draft decision on further guidance on cooperative approaches for consideration and adoption at CMA 5 (November–December 2023).
9. The SBSTA requested the secretariat, in developing the manual referred to in paragraph 22 of decision 6/CMA.4, to consider including therein, as relevant, explanations of key terms and concepts, illustrative elements of information, templates, examples and case studies that are not country-specific, and questions and answers on elements of the guidance on cooperative approaches related to reporting requirements and the evolving reporting practice. It also requested the secretariat to regularly update the manual on the basis of ongoing work on and experience with the implementation of the guidance on cooperative approaches. The first version of the manual should be made available to Parties by the end of 2023, and regular updates are to be provided by the secretariat on the continued development of the manual.
10. The SBSTA acknowledged the importance of and urgent need for a strong capacity-building programme and requested the secretariat to continue to provide regular updates on the status of the work on the capacity-building programme referred to in paragraph 12 of decision 2/CMA.3. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prioritize as part of the capacity-building programme activities related to the preparation of the initial report, including fulfilment of the participation responsibilities set out in decision 2/CMA.3, annex, chapter II, and the preparation of the agreed electronic format in its draft version.
11. The SBSTA recalled paragraph 9 of decision 6/CMA.4 regarding the request to the secretariat to implement and maintain the training programme for technical experts participating in Article 6 technical expert reviews pursuant to decision 2/CMA.3, annex, paragraph 26, taking into account technical advice from Article 6 lead reviewers on the implementation of the training for technical experts participating in Article 6 technical expert reviews pursuant to annex II, chapter XI.C, of decision 6/CMA.4, and requested the secretariat to provide regular updates on the development of the training programme.
12. The SBSTA recalled paragraph 33(c) of decision 6/CMA.4 regarding the request to the secretariat to make available, as part of the implementation of the international registry, the technical specifications and associated cost estimates for the international registry, and requested the secretariat to make available prior to SBSTA 59 updated specifications and estimates taking into account the submissions from Parties.
13. The SBSTA recalled paragraph 34 of decision 6/CMA.4 regarding the request to the secretariat to establish a voluntary forum of Article 6 registry system administrators and technical experts of participating Parties to facilitate cooperation among them, including sharing knowledge and experience in the context of implementing and operating the infrastructure under Article 6, paragraph 2, and to provide input to the further development and implementation of such infrastructure, as necessary, and requested the secretariat to expedite the implementation of that mandate.
14. The SBSTA recalled paragraph 38 of decision 6/CMA.4 regarding the request to the secretariat to prepare a technical paper on options for funding the activities related to the infrastructure under Article 6, paragraph 2, and the Article 6 technical expert review and requested the secretariat to prepare the paper as soon as possible but no later than one month prior to the workshop referred to in paragraph 7 above.
15. In relation to the technical paper referred to in paragraph 14 above, the SBSTA also requested the secretariat to conduct a survey of Parties on their choice between establishing a national registry or using the international registry, including the expected nature of such use, and on when they are planning to submit their initial report, as well as their capacity-building needs in this regard, in order to understand the potential volume of work and associated costs.

16. Regarding the matters referred to paragraphs 16(a) and 17 of decision 6/CMA.4 that correspond to the matters referred to in paragraph 9 of decision 7/CMA.4, the SBSTA invited its Chair to consider organizing, at SBSTA 59, a joint meeting as part of the informal consultations on the guidance on cooperative approaches and the rules, modalities and procedures for the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, in order to prepare for consistent outcomes on these related matters at CMA 5.

17. The SBSTA invited Parties to make contributions to the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities for operationalizing the guidance on cooperative approaches and supporting the intersessional work referred to in paragraphs 6–8 and 15 above.

18. The SBSTA took note of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat referred to in paragraphs 6–8 and 15 above.

19. The SBSTA requested that the actions of the secretariat called for in these conclusions be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

20. The SBSTA agreed to continue consideration of this matter at SBSTA 59.

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